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TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL APRIL 14, 2015

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At 9:39 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. for a joint meeting with the Library Commission in the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library meeting room, with regular business commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

**MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR
MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance City Council convened in an adjourned regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 in the Council Chamber at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Ashcraft, Barnett, Goodrich, Griffiths, Rizzo, Weideman and Mayor Furey.

Absent: None.

Present: City Manager Jackson, Assistant City Manager Giordano, Assistant City Attorney Sullivan, City Clerk Poirier and other staff representatives.

2. FLAG SALUTE/ INVOCATION

The flag salute was led by Councilmember Weideman.

The non-sectarian invocation was given by Torrance Police Chaplain Dan Hudson.

3. REPORT OF CITY CLERK ON POSTING OF THE AGENDA/ MOTION TO WAIVE FURTHER READING

City Clerk Poirier reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard on Friday, April 10, 2015.

MOTION: Councilmember Rizzo moved that after the City Clerk has read aloud the number and title to any resolution or ordinance on the meeting agenda, the further reading thereof shall be waived, reserving and guaranteeing to each Councilmember the right to demand the reading of any such resolution or ordinance in regular order. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

4. WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

No items were withdrawn or deferred.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Barnett requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Joe Max Orr, a 100 year-old Torrance resident and World War II veteran who passed away on March 23, 2015.

Mayor Furey announced that the Torrance Civic Chorale will be presenting a concert "Honoring Life - Honoring Memory" on Saturday, April 18, at 8:00 p.m. at the Armstrong Theatre, which will feature patriotic music and two world premieres, Midsummer and Wonder, with additional information available at 310-781-7171.

Mayor Furey offered a reminder that Torrance is participating in the Wyland Foundation Mayor's Challenge, a competition among cities to see which city can be the most water wise. He reported that Torrance is currently in second place nationally and encouraged those who have not signed the pledge to do so at www.mywaterpledge.com.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6A. PROCLAMATION RE "NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK"

Mayor Furey presented a proclamation declaring the week of April 12 through April 18 as **National Library Week** in the City of Torrance to Library Commission Chairperson Harry Ross.

Item 6C was considered out of order at this time.

6C. PROCLAMATION RE "ALCOHOL AWARENESS PREVENTION MONTH"

Mayor Furey presented a proclamation declaring April as **Alcohol Awareness Prevention Month** in the City of Torrance to Lisa Gray, Prevention Outreach Coordinator, Behavioral Health Services; Maria Kesler, Prevention Outreach Specialist, Behavioral Health Services; Commissioner Milton Herring; Commissioner Cinda Herring; Pat Rillera, Executive Director, MADD; and Dr. Donnie Watson, Program Director, Thelma McMillen Center for Alcohol & Drug Treatment, Torrance Memorial Medical Center; and representatives of the Torrance Executive Prevention Community Coalition: Lorenzo Murphy; Gretchen Downey; Tiffany Rashel; Lisa M. Budris, Esq.; Jacqueline Huynh Schaeffer; Keith Page; Jo Ann Gaines; Duncan Tooley; Earlene Parsons; Jesse Spinner and Zeke Vidaurri.

6B. PROCLAMATION RE "NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK"

Mayor Furey presented a proclamation declaring the week of April 12 through April 18 as **National Volunteer Week** in the City of Torrance to Ron Kimmel, who accepted on behalf of City of Torrance volunteers. Mayor Furey noted that 7,200 volunteers contributed over 51,000 hours of service in 2014 to the City of Torrance with a value of over \$1 million.

Volunteer Coordinator Brianne King highlighted the accomplishments of the following volunteers: Police - Keith Montoya; TAM - Dolly Cross; Focal Point - Annabel St. John; TAX AARP – Ginger Brown; TAX AARP – Richard Utter; Youth Volunteer – Golf Chudabala; Youth Volunteer – Sarah Staffieri; Farmers' Market – Michael Kamimura; Friends of Library – Ron Kimmel; Live Steamers – Rory Hawkins; TRFA – Georgan Griswold; Cable – Austin Alaniz; Marsh - Nature Center – Kathy Benz; Marsh – Preserve – Chris Wendel; TSCA – Steven Ihde; Theatre – Olga Sotiri and Youth Sports – Vince Pellerito.

7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

7A. David Oster, Torrance, invited the public to attend an Israeli Independence Day celebration on April 23, at 7:00 p.m. in the Toyota Meeting Hall.

7B. Jim Gates, Torrance, announced that the Western Museum of Flight will be exhibiting four of Collings Foundation's historic aircraft on May 4 through May 6, including the B-24 aircraft, which will fly into Torrance on May 4 with Luke Zamperini and his son aboard, with additional information available at www.WMOF.com.

7C. Brandon Matson, Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce, invited the public to attend a “Lunch with Our Leader” event featuring 4th District Supervisor Don Knabe on Wednesday, April 29, at the Doubletree Hotel, with additional information available at www.TorranceChamber.com.

7D. Julie Kaplan, Attic Advisory Committee, invited the public to attend a pancake breakfast fundraiser on Saturday, April 18, from 7:00 – 11:00 a.m. at the Attic Teen Center.

7E. Lloyd Brown, Torrance, announced that the inaugural L.A. Local Craft Beer and Artisanal Food Festival will be held on Saturday, April 18, at Alpine Village from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m., which will feature 31 local breweries, with additional information available at www.CraftBeerGuy.com.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

8A. TORRANCE ROSE FLOAT ASSOCIATION 2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that City Council accept and file the Torrance Rose Float Association 2014-2015 Annual Report.

8B. APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR COLUMBIA PARK BOCCE BALL COURTS

Considered separately, see below.

8C. PURCHASE ORDER FOR EMERGENCY REPAIRS TO MAPLE SUMP

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that City Council:

- 1) Appropriate \$39,950 from the Sewer Enterprise Fund for emergency repairs to the Maple Sump; and
- 2) Authorize a purchase order with Clark Contracting Corporation of Lawndale, CA in the amount of \$39,950.

MOTION: Councilmember Griffiths moved to approve Consent Calendar Items 8A and 8C. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Weideman and passed by unanimous vote.

Consent Calendar Item 8B was considered separately at this time.

8B. APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR BOCCE BALL COURTS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Community Services Director that City Council appropriate funds in the amount of \$80,000 from the Parks and Recreation Open Space Funds and \$21,493.01 from the Community Services Department Bocce Ball Donation Account for the installation of three bocce ball courts at Columbia Park.

Councilmember Weideman stated that he was very happy this project was finally going forward; and Councilmember Ashcraft indicated that she was also very pleased.

Councilmember Goodrich commended the volunteers who spearheaded this project for their perseverance and for taking the initiative to raise funds for it.

Councilmember Griffiths also commended the volunteers for their diligence.

Mayor Furey congratulated volunteers Bob Chiota and Joel Massa on accomplishing their goal.

MOTION: Councilmember Weideman moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Griffiths and passed by unanimous vote.

9. COMMUNITY SERVICES

9A. AGREEMENT AMENDMENT RE BASEBALL FIELD LIGHTING AT LAGO SECO PARK

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Community Services Director that City Council approve an amendment to the lease agreement with Riviera Little League (C2014-160) to allow the installation of sports field lighting of the baseball fields at Lago Seco Park located at 23701 Ocean Avenue.

Sr. Business Manager Minter reported that all costs associated with the installation and maintenance of the sports field lighting will be covered by Riviera Little League. He noted that the Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed the proposal and voted unanimously to approve it.

Assistant City Attorney Sullivan disclosed that he has coached for Riviera Little League and four of his children have played on Riviera Little League teams, but he had no involvement in the proposed lease and this relationship will not affect any advice he gives this evening.

Councilmember Barnett commended Riviera Little League for their efforts, noting that this is the first time a little league organization has been able to gain the full support of neighbors for adding sports field lighting to a park and the first time an organization has agreed to pay for all of the associated costs.

Councilmember Ashcraft related her understanding that there are provisions in place to protect the City should the league default in paying for the equipment.

John Merryman, Riviera Little League, explained that the collateral for the purchase of the lighting is the equipment to be installed, which the company will take back should the league default, so the City is completely indemnified.

Mayor Furey disclosed that he has been volunteering as an umpire for little league games for approximately 30 years.

Noah Carness, Riviera Little League player, reported that the team currently plays at South High, which they do not like because there are no restrooms and no snack shack.

MOTION: Councilmember Rizzo moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

12A. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR 2016 ROSE PARADE FLOAT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Council Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee that City Council concur with the Committee's recommendation that the full City Council consider a long-term solution to Rose Float funding in the upcoming budget process.

Councilmember Weideman, chair of the Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee, reported that the committee met on March 17 and after much discussion, voted unanimously to recommend that the City Council consider a long-term solution to Rose Float funding in the upcoming budget process.

Councilmember Barnett, member of the Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee, noted that the committee considered recommending a certain level of funding but decided that it was best to discuss this during the budget process.

Councilmember Griffiths, member of Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee, reported that the committee was strongly in favor of providing funding for the Rose Float, but the level of support will depend on the overall picture of the City's budget.

Georgean Griswold, president of Torrance Rose Float Association, read a prepared statement, which provided background information about the formation of the Torrance Rose Float Association; noted that the parade offers world-wide exposure for participants; and urged the Council to provide funding for the float so this long-standing tradition can continue.

MOTION: Councilmember Weideman moved to concur with the committee's recommendation that a long-term solution to Rose Float funding be considered during the upcoming budget process. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

12B. DRAFT WATER CONSERVATION ORDINANCE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council review and comment on the draft Water Conservation and Water Supply Shortage Ordinance (Water Conservation Ordinance) and draft Resolution and provide direction.

Public Works Director Beste reported that on April 1, 2015, Governor Brown signed an Executive Order requiring a 25% reduction in urban water use due the severe state-wide drought; that the State Water Board determined that Torrance will need to reduce its usage by 20% based on current usage; and that the Metropolitan Water District Board recently indicated that Torrance, along with the rest of the cities in the MWD, will be receiving a 15% reduction in their water allocation. He reported that staff was recommending that Level 2 water use restrictions be activated in order to achieve water reduction goals, which requires minor modifications to the City's Water Conservation Ordinance, so a draft ordinance has been prepared for the Council's consideration. He noted that the Water Commission will review the ordinance on April 22, after which it will be brought back for a public hearing before the City Council on May 5.

Noting that Level 2 restrictions limit outdoor watering to two times per week for a maximum of 10 minutes per station/area, Councilmember Goodrich related his understanding that some people have found that it's more effective to water less often, but for a longer time.

Public Works Director Beste advised that the two-days per week watering schedule has worked well for the City's landscaped medians, however staff will look into adding some flexibility for those who would prefer watering once a week for a longer period of time.

Councilmember Barnett asked how much water the City has saved under Level 1 restrictions currently in effect.

Public Works Director Beste reported that Torrance has reduced consumption by 8% as compared to the previous year, but noted that water usage varies from year-to-year depending on the weather.

Noting that certain areas of Torrance have expansive soils that require regular watering to avoid structural damage to homes, Councilmember Griffiths asked how this issue will be addressed.

Public Works Director Beste reported that the ordinance as proposed does not allow for exceptions. He explained that the City will have to pay an additional \$1500 per acre-foot of water if it exceeds its allocation from MWD; that additional penalties may be assessed for not meeting water-use reduction goals; and that these costs will have to be covered if the Council chooses to allow exemptions.

City Manager Jackson noted that water is supplied by a private water company (California Water Service) in some areas with expansive soils and the company may have its own water-use restrictions in addition to the city-wide restrictions imposed by the Water Conservation Ordinance.

Marc Danzinger, president of the Southwood Riviera Homeowners Association, stated that he had hoped the draft ordinance would have included some form of interim relief for those who live in areas with expansive soils while residents seek a longer term solution to this problem. He requested that the Council direct staff to collaborate with the HOA on adding language to the ordinance to address this issue.

City Manager Jackson recommended that this matter be explored at the Water Commission hearing, after which staff will return to the Council with various options.

Mayor Furey expressed confidence that residents will do whatever is necessary to comply with water restrictions. He noted that Torrance is in a better position than most cities due to investments the City has made in water infrastructure and it enjoys water rates that are much lower than neighboring cities.

Councilmember Ashcraft pointed out that she and many other Torrance residents are not served by the Torrance Municipal Water Department and expressed the hope that this will change in the future.

Cary Sussman, 234th Place, reported that she has made extensive repairs to her home in order to mitigate the effects of expansive soils and she has been informed by soils engineers that it is essential to maintain an even level of moisture to avoid future damage. She suggested that the City help homeowners learn how to become more efficient in their use of water so conservation goals can be met while still protecting their properties.

Dave Sargent, Via la Circula, questioned how the baseline for usage will be determined. He stressed the importance of including provisions for enforcement that have “some teeth in them” and recommended that those who exceed per capita water use guidelines be required to pay a penalty. He related his understanding the artificial turf is not allowed in Torrance, and suggested that this prohibition be abolished.

Mayor Furey reported that artificial turf is allowed and noted that the Metropolitan Water District is currently offering a \$2 per square-foot rebate for the replacement of lawns with drought tolerant landscaping.

Public Works Director Beste cautioned that residents must sign up for the rebate before beginning any work at www.BeWaterWise.com.

Pamela Maran, Via del Valle, recommended that a provision be included in the ordinance prohibiting watering for 48 hours after a rainstorm and suggested that water wise tips be included in water bills.

Mayor Furey noted that water-saving tips are listed at www.MyWaterPledge.com.

Assistant City Attorney Sullivan advised that the Water Conservation Ordinance includes a Hardship Waiver (Section 76.4.120), which may be applicable to residents in areas with expansive soils.

Rick Marshall, Torrance Water Commission member, stated that he was pleased the Water Commission will be involved in this process and recommended that staff from the City Attorney’s office be present at the Water Commission hearing should legal issues arise. He suggested that the City should save a considerable amount of water this year due to the shutdown of the ExxonMobil refinery. He asked if Torrance will have more leeway with regard to State regulations because it is a charter city.

City Manager Jackson explained that much of the water used at the refinery is recycled, which is not subject to water-use restrictions. He advised that the State’s role in monitoring/enforcing water use restrictions will not be known until the regulations are drafted.

Mayor Furey commended staff for taking a proactive approach to this issue.

Public Works Director Beste cautioned residents that water-usage baselines will be established based on usage patterns from a couple of years ago so residents should not try to inflate their baseline by using more water now.

Councilmember Weideman pointed out that the City’s ability to use tiered water rates as a means of penalizing overuse may be impacted by a court case involving the City of San Juan Capistrano that is expected to be decided soon.

Mayor Furey announced that the Water Commission hearing will be held on April 22, after which the ordinance will be brought back to the City Council for consideration on May 5.

12C. CONSIDERATION OF REMOVAL OF ARTHUR PLOURDE FROM LIBRARY COMMISSION

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council consider the removal of Arthur Plourde from the Library Commission for advocating a personal agenda while representing himself as a City Commissioner and thereby exceeding the scope of his duties as a Library Commissioner.

City Manager Jackson noted that a list of incidents involving Arthur Plourde in which he advocated a personal agenda while representing himself as a City Commissioner was provided in the staff report.

Councilmember Ashcraft announced that she was recusing herself from consideration of this item and exited the dais.

Arthur Plourde stated that he pledged to uphold and defend the Constitutions of the United States and the State of California when he took the oath of office and related his belief that library's practice of providing materials in languages other than English violates the California Constitution. With the aid of slides, he reviewed Article 3, Section 6 of the California Constitution, which states that English is the official language of the State of California; that the Legislature and the State of California shall take all steps necessary to ensure that the role of English as the common language of the State of California is preserved and enhanced; and that any person who is a resident or doing business in California shall have standing to sue the State of California to enforce this section. He referenced a speech given in 1907 by President Theodore Roosevelt in which he states that "We have room for one language here, and that is the English language." He maintained that he had not disrupted Library Commission meetings and had simply requested information.

Mayor Furey asked if Mr. Plourde had reviewed the information in the staff report.

Mr. Plourde responded that he disputed the claim that he had pounded his fist on the table at a Library Commission meeting, maintaining that he had not been confrontational in any way. He stated that he did call the Public Works Department about a damaged sidewalk and has reported Torrance Transit bus drivers for not wearing seatbelts, but he never identified himself as a City Commission during these interactions contrary to the staff report.

Councilmember Goodrich asked if Mr. Plourde believes the fact that Torrance is providing materials in languages other than English should be tested in a court of law.

Mr. Plourde stated that he was not advocating that the City of Torrance become involved in this issue and believes "a higher power somewhere up north" should be taking it up.

Councilmember Goodrich questioned why Mr. Plourde brought the matter up at a Library Commission meeting if he was not advocating for the City of Torrance to become involved in legal action.

Mr. Plourde responded that after learning that the library was purchasing materials in foreign languages, he did some research and found the previously mentioned article in the California Constitution, which he believes few people know about.

Councilmember Goodrich noted that according to the staff report, only 4% of Torrance Library's materials are in a language other than English and questioned what percentage Mr. Plourde would find acceptable.

Mr. Plourde stated that foreign language materials should be limited to 1% or less of the library's holdings and anything that's out of context with the California Constitution should be eliminated. He contended that the \$30,000 annual expense for foreign-language materials listed in the staff report underestimates the cost because it does not include the expense of ordering, processing and cataloguing the materials and suggested that this money could be better spent elsewhere.

Councilmember Goodrich asked about providing materials for those who want to learn a foreign language, and Mr. Plourde maintained that it was the school district's responsibility to provide such learning materials, not the public library.

Councilmember Goodrich noted that the library serves as an educational resource for the community and voiced his opinion that just because foreign language materials are offered does not mean that the library is promoting an agenda which would try to move people away from a common language.

Mr. Plourde stated that he was disturbed by the fact that people think they can come to the library and request material in a foreign language and it will be there.

Mayor Furey related his belief that it was the library's role to provide such materials for the public. He noted that many historical documents are in a foreign language and the library's foreign language materials are used on a daily basis as an adjunct to teaching tools for students learning foreign languages. He pointed out that Torrance is one of the few cities to have its own library system, which dates back to the city's founding, with Jared Sidney Torrance's sister serving as the first librarian. He disclosed that he along with Councilmember Ashcraft met with Mr. Plourde and explained at length the City's obligation to be inclusive and to educate the community and one of the ways this is done is through the library system. He stated that the article in the California Constitution referenced by Mr. Plourde does not forbid the library from having Spanish tomes; it does not forbid schools from teaching Greek, Latin or French; and it does not forbid the City from broadening the horizons of its citizenry and its children.

Lloyd Brown, Torrance, noted that there are many examples of materials being provided in languages other than English throughout California, including DMV instructional materials and election ballots, therefore he did not see how offering materials in foreign languages at the library could be construed as violating the California Constitution.

Clint Paulson, Torrance, referring to an email included in the agenda material from Councilmember Ashcraft to City Manager Jackson, with a copy to Council2, questioned who is encompassed in the email address "Council2."

Assistant City Attorney Sullivan reported that Council2 encompasses the Mayor and Council, the City Manager, the Assistant City Manager, the City Attorney and the Assistant City Attorney.

Mr. Paulson expressed concerns that the email sent by Councilmember Ashcraft may violate the Brown Act and asked for the City Attorney's opinion.

Assistant City Attorney Sullivan declined to comment, explaining that it was not the City Attorney's role to give legal advice to the public.

Mr. Paulson stated that what Mr. Plourde did was not illegal and questioned whether Councilmember Ashcraft would be removed for violating the Brown Act, an apparent violation of the law.

Kathryn-Endo Roberts, Torrance, reported that she served on the Library Commission for 11 years and during that time commissioners strongly supported the library's efforts to provide foreign language materials. She explained that commissioners felt that people who immigrate to Torrance enrich the community and providing materials in their native languages was a way to make them feel welcome and these materials are also necessary to help children learn to speak English.

In response to Mayor Furey's inquiry, Assistant City Attorney Sullivan confirmed that City Commissioners serve at the pleasure of the City Council and they can be removed for any reason or no reason at all.

Councilmember Weideman reported that he recently addressed a Commissioner Certification training class and offered his perspective that to be a successful commissioner a person cannot have a personal agenda. He related his belief that if someone wants to be an advocate for a specific focused issue, they should opt for the independence of speaking their mind from the podium and not the dais.

Councilmember Griffiths noted his agreement with Commissioner Weideman's comments, relating his belief that people must set their personal feelings aside when serving on a commission and work for the greater good of the community. He stated that it's clear there is an emphasis on providing materials in English since only 4% of the library's materials are in a foreign language, a number he considers to be almost insignificant.

MOTION: Councilmember Barnett moved to remove Arthur Plourde from the Library Commission for advocating a personal agenda while representing himself as a City Commissioner. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Goodrich and passed by unanimous vote, with Councilmember Ashcraft recusing herself.

Councilmember Ashcraft returned to the dais at this time.

17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

17A. Councilmember Barnett requested excused absences for the meetings of April 21 and April 28, 2015.

17B. Councilmember Griffiths announced that the Salvation Army will be holding a fundraiser "Spring Splendor" on Friday, April 17, from 6:30 – 10:00 p.m. at the Torrance Art Museum, which will include live music and dancing, local craft beer, and farm-to-table gourmet fare.

17C. Bob Chiota and Joel Massa expressed appreciation to the City Council, the Parks and Recreation Commission, City staff and all who contributed to the bocce ball courts project at Columbia Park.

Mayor Furey noted that these bocce ball courts will be unique in that they will be accessible to those with physical disabilities.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

19. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:39 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. for a joint meeting with the Library Commission in the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library meeting room, with regular business commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

Attest:

/s/ Patrick J. Furey

Mayor Patrick J. Furey

/s/ R. Poirier

City Clerk Rebecca Poirier, MMC

Approved on May 12, 2015